

Magistrate Judge Grady J. Leupold

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CLERK U.S. DISTRICT COURT WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON AT TACOMA BY _____ DEPUTY	

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT FOR THE
WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON
AT TACOMA

UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,
Plaintiff

v.

ELMER EDWARD ALCORN,
Defendants.

CASE NO. 3:25-MJ-5217

COMPLAINT for VIOLATIONS
Title 21, U.S.C. Sections 841(a)(1), 841
(b)(1)(A)

BEFORE, Grady J. Leupold, United States Magistrate Judge, U. S. Courthouse,
Tacoma, Washington.

The undersigned complainant being duly sworn states:

COUNT 1

(Possession of Controlled Substances with Intent to Distribute)

On or about May 14, 2025, in Clark County, within the Western District of
Washington, ELMER EDWARD ALCORN did knowingly and intentionally
possess, with the intent to distribute, controlled substances, including:
methamphetamine, a substance controlled under Title 21, United States Code.

1 It is further alleged that the offense involved 500 grams or more of a mixture or
2 substance containing a detectable amount of methamphetamine, its salts isomers or salts
3 of its isomers.

4 All in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and
5 841(b)(1)(A).

6
7 And the complainant states that this Complaint is based on the following
8 information:

9 I, Joshua Betonte, being first duly sworn on oath, depose and say:

10 **INTRODUCTION AND AGENT BACKGROUND**

11 1. I have been employed as a Task Force Officer by the Drug Enforcement
12 Administration (DEA) since March 2023. I am an investigative or law enforcement
13 officer of the United States, within the meaning of Section 2510(7) of Title 18, United
14 States Code, and am empowered by law to conduct investigations of and to make arrests
15 for offenses enumerated in Section 2516 of Title 18, United States Code.

16 2. My current assignment is at the Portland District Office where I am
17 assigned to a DEA federal task force. My formal education includes a Bachelor of
18 Science in Criminal Justice. My formal law enforcement training includes receiving over
19 500 hours of training as documented by the Department of Public Safety Standards and
20 Training (DPSST) and a 400-hour Basic Police Academy. I currently possess an
21 Advanced Police Certification.

22 3. I have participated in multiple drug investigations involving controlled
23 purchase operations, surveillance, arrests, interdiction, vehicle tracking, cell phone geo-
24 location techniques, trap and trace orders, and Title III wiretaps. I have interviewed and
25 operated informants, executed search warrants, arrested and interviewed subjects
26 involved in the smuggling and distribution of narcotics, conducted physical surveillance,
27

1 and utilized electronic and video surveillance. I have also worked with and consulted
2 numerous agents and law enforcement officers who have investigated drug trafficking
3 offenses.

4 4. Based on the facts set forth in this affidavit, there is probable cause to
5 believe that **ELMER EDWARD ALCORN** (“**ALCORN**”) has violated 21 U.S.C.
6 Sections 841(a)(1) and 841 (b)(1)(A), possession with intent to distribute controlled
7 substances. The facts set forth in this affidavit are based on my own personal knowledge;
8 knowledge obtained from other individuals during my participation in this investigation,
9 including other law enforcement personnel; review of documents and records related to
10 this investigation; communications with others who have personal knowledge of the
11 events and circumstances described herein; and information gained through my training
12 and experience. Because this affidavit is submitted for the limited purpose of establishing
13 probable cause, it does not set forth each and every fact that I or others have learned
14 during the course of this investigation.

15 SUMMARY OF INVESTIGATION

16 Source of Information

17 5. Confidential Source (“CS”) has been providing information to the Westside
18 Interagency Narcotics team (WIN) since January of 2025. CS’s criminal convictions
19 include Assault in the Fourth Degree, Felon in Possession of a Prohibited Firearm,
20 probation violations, contempt of court, and Unlawful Dissemination of an Intimate
21 Image. CS was encountered by police for unlawful entry into a vehicle and felon in
22 possession of a firearm in late 2024. CS agreed to cooperate with the government in
23 exchange for consideration on sentencing for the Felon in Possession of a Prohibited
24 Firearm for which he was found guilty. No threats or promises regarding these criminal
25 charges were made by the government in exchange for CS’s cooperation. Nor has CS
26 been paid or received any immigration benefits as a result of cooperation.
27

6. CS has no convictions for crimes of dishonesty or deceit, such as fraud, identity theft, or making false reports to police. CS has provided information that has been independently corroborated and has led to successful controlled purchases of narcotics. CS has demonstrated knowledge about current drug trafficking trends that I know to be true based on my training and experience.

Investigators identify DTO Cell in Vancouver, Washington

7. Agents and officers from DEA, Homeland Security Investigations (HSI), Tigard Police Department (TPD), Beaverton Police Department (BPD), Washington County Sheriff's Office (WCSO), and Sherwood Police Department (SPD) assigned to DEA-led federal task force, (hereinafter collectively referred to as "Investigators") are investigating a drug trafficking organization (DTO). Investigators have identified a DTO cell facilitated by **ALCORN**, who is located in Vancouver, Washington.

8. As detailed below, Investigators have learned that **ALCORN** physically delivers drugs to drug customers and collects drug proceeds from drug customers. **ALCORN** is suspected of importing methamphetamine from other states for further distribution with cells operating in Oregon and Washington. Investigators seized (including packaging) approximately 438 grams of methamphetamine via controlled buys from **ALCORN** leading up to a search warrant execution.

April 2025: recorded communications with Alcorn

9. In late April 2025, CS notified Investigators that they had been in contact with **ALCORN** the day prior. **ALCORN** was using phone number (971) 901-5501. CS sent Investigators screen shots of text communications between CS and **ALCORN**. The text communications were of **ALCORN** and CS discussing prices for different weights of methamphetamine, and places to meet to complete the sale of the methamphetamine. Based on my training and experience, I know that the weights and prices discussed between **ALCORN** and CS via text communications were consistent with typical prices and weight for methamphetamine in this area. I further observed on the top of those

1 screenshots, the phone number (971) 901-5501 with the caller ID name “Elmer Alcorn”
2 under it.

3 April 2025: Geolocation data of Alcorn

4 10. In late April 2025, Investigators obtained a cellphone GPS location
5 services, and historical data search warrant from the Washington County Circuit Court in
6 Hillsboro, Oregon. On April 25, 2025, at about 12:48pm, Investigators began to receive
7 GPS locations for **ALCORN**’s cellphone at ten-minute intervals.

8 11. At about 8:48pm on April 25, 2025, **ALCORN**’s cellphone became active
9 and began traveling south on U.S. Interstate Highway-5 (I-5) from Portland, OR. The
10 cellphone GPS pings were consistent at 10-minute intervals and **ALCORN**’s cellphone
11 steadily continued south on I-5 toward the state of California. About five hours later, on
12 April 26, 2025, at 1:58am, **ALCORN**’s cellphone GPS placed his cellphone still
13 traveling south at the Oregon-California border, which is a direct drive from Portland to
14 the California border on I-5.

15 12. I know due to my training and experience, that large quantities of illicit
16 controlled substance are often imported and/or manufactured in California. Further, based
17 on my training and experience, I understand that when large scale drug traffickers
18 operating out of Oregon or Washington are out of narcotics, they will drive directly to a
19 source city in California to source their narcotics for a significant discount. They will
20 then turn around and drive directly back to their customer base area. This is often referred
21 to and is known as a “suicide run.” **ALCORN**’s actions on April 25-26 — a nonstop
22 drive, and short stop in California, followed by a nonstop return — are consistent with a
23 “suicide run.”

24 13. Given the information about the quantity of narcotic distributed by
25 **ALCORN**, the suspect nature of his travel patterns, and, as discussed below, the fact that
26 very shortly after this trip **ALCORN** sold one (1) pound of methamphetamine, I believe
27

1 **ALCORN** traveled to California to source a significant quantity of methamphetamine, to
2 then drive back north to his customer base in Oregon.

3 14. After **ALCORN** turned on his “work” cellphone and started traveling south
4 towards California on I-5, Investigators were notified by **ALCORN**’s cellphone GPS,
5 less than 24 hours later, that **ALCORN**’s cellphone had reentered Oregon at the
6 California border traveling north on I5.

7 15. Investigators set up on I-5 northbound; to conduct surveillance in order to
8 identify **ALCORN** and interdict what they suspected would be a large quantity of
9 methamphetamine. Investigators drove northbound on I-5 and began surveilling vehicles
10 traveling north.

11 16. During the surveillance, Investigators documented and observed, on
12 multiple occasions, a silver Dodge Caliber with Oregon license plate 374KPZ, registered
13 to a R.W., out of Salem, Oregon. However, the Dodge Caliber was consistently two to
14 three miles north of the radius of accuracy for **ALCORN**’s cellphone GPS locations.
15 Investigators initially discounted the Dodge Caliber as a vehicle associated with
16 **ALCORN**’s cellphone GPS locations.

17 17. It was later determined that the GPS notification from T-Mobile for
18 **ALCORN**’s cellphone were not real time locations but were rather delayed notifications
19 by two to three minutes. These delayed GPS locations caused it to appear that
20 **ALCORN**’s cellphone location was two to three miles south of the radius of accuracy for
21 **ALCORN**’s cellphone GPS locations, throughout the surveillance on I-5 north.
22 Accordingly, Investigators now believe that the Dodge Caliber was **ALCORN**.

23 18. On April 30, 2025, Investigators went to 20901 NE 95th Street in
24 Vancouver, Washington, **ALCORN**’s known residence as detailed below, and observed
25 the same Dodge Caliber with Oregon plate 374KPZ parked in the driveway of the
26 residence.
27

May 2025: Controlled Purchase Organized by Alcorn

19. In early May 2025, under guidance from Investigators, CS contacted **ALCORN** to arrange for a controlled purchase of a large quantity of methamphetamine. **ALCORN** agreed to sell methamphetamine to CS in Vancouver, WA.

20. Investigators met CS at predetermined location. Investigators searched CS and CS's vehicle for weapons, drugs, and other contraband, but did not find any. Under the guidance of Investigators, CS contacted **ALCORN** to confirm the controlled purchase. **ALCORN** confirmed the controlled purchase, stating that CS should come to **ALCORN**'s residence at 20901 NE 95th Street in Vancouver, WA. Investigators provided CS with U.S. currency and an audio recording device. Investigators observed CS get into the driver's seat of CS's vehicle then saw CS's vehicle drive directly to the deal location.

21. CS arrived at the residence and called **ALCORN**. **ALCORN** directed CS to come to the door. CS followed the instructions and went inside the residence. CS went to the southern end of the residence. While inside the residence, **ALCORN** sold CS over one pound of methamphetamine in exchange for U.S. Currency.

22. After the controlled purchase was completed, Investigators maintained surveillance as CS's vehicle drove from the deal location directly back to the predetermined staging location. Investigators retrieved the audio recording device from CS. Immediately after, CS gave Investigators a clear plastic bag containing a crystalline substance that later field tested positive for methamphetamine. Investigators searched CS and CS's vehicle for weapons, drugs, and other contraband but did not find any.

May 2025: Alcorn residence confirmation and execution of search warrant

23. Investigators were informed by analysts using open-source information that **ALCORN** was associated to a property located at 20901 NE 95th St., Vancouver WA. This address was listed as **ALCORN**'s residence through Oregon Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). Public real property records indicate that **ALCORN** is the owner of the

1 residence and that he acquired the property in a trust from the Alcorn Family Trust.
2 Investigators in Clark County Washington accessed Clark County Geographic
3 Information Services to confirm **ALCORN** as the listed property owner for the Target
4 Residence.

5 24. On May 13, 2025, law enforcement obtained a search warrant from the
6 Federal District Court for the Western District of Washington for **ALCORN's** residence
7 (20901 NE 95th Street in Vancouver, Washington – the same location from which CS
8 bought methamphetamine above), **ALCORN's** person, and the Dodge Caliber.

9 25. Upon law enforcement's arrival **ALCORN** attempted to flee, running from
10 the residence into a nearby wooded area. He was later located by a Vancouver Police
11 Department police dog and transported to a nearby hospital for follow on treatment.

12 26. On May 14, 2025, at approximately 10:45am, law enforcement executed
13 the search warrant. Two other individuals, R.W. (the person to whom the Dodge Caliber
14 is registered) and **ALCORN's** romantic partner, J.A., were found on the scene and
15 detained without incident.

16 27. After securing the premises, law enforcement began searching **ALCORN's**
17 residence and the Dodge Caliber. Within the vehicle, officers recovered over two (2)
18 pounds of suspected methamphetamine as well as a digital scale and plastic baggies.
19 Based on my training and experience, this quantity of controlled substance is inconsistent
20 with personal use and digital scales and plastic baggies are indicia of drug trafficking.

21 28. In the residence, officers located approximately 440 grams of
22 methamphetamine in a black tote bag in a large room attached to the living room on the
23 first floor. Officers recovered over \$52,000 in U.S. currency within a safe located in a
24 small utility room on the first floor near the backdoor of the residence. In a home office
25 on the first floor, officers seized an additional 240 grams of suspected methamphetamine
26 and a revolver pistol within a desk. On top of that desk, officers located **ALCORN's**
27 cellphone and wallet with identification and bank cards. Also on the first floor, in a utility

1 room with access to the back yard was a cooler which contained 8.9 pounds of
2 methamphetamine. Within a detached garage located across from the residence, officers
3 obtained another two (2) pounds of suspected methamphetamine.

4 29. On the second floor, in a spare bedroom, officers recovered dozens of
5 firearms, including suspected machine guns and short-barreled shotguns. In the same
6 room as the firearms, officers recovered three (3) pounds of suspected psilocybin. In
7 another second-floor bedroom, later confirmed by J.A. as **ALCORN's**, officers recovered
8 approximately 274 grams Adderall, 2.8 pounds psilocybin, and over \$17,500 in U.S.
9 currency. Additionally, within the room was a United States Postal Service Package
10 addressed to **ALCORN**. Also on the second floor, within a guest bedroom, was a box
11 containing **ALCORN's** tax returns.

12 30. Additionally, in an accessory dwelling unit located off the property
13 occupied by R.W., officers recovered 3.2 pounds of methamphetamine

14 31. **ALCORN's** romantic partner was interviewed as officers searched the
15 residence. He stated that he moved into the residence in March of 2025. He stated that no
16 one else lived in the main residence aside from **ALCORN**. He stated that the firearms
17 belonged to **ALCORN** and he denied knowledge that **ALCORN** was selling
18 methamphetamine.

19 32. In total, the search yielded approximately 8,232 grams of
20 methamphetamine, 2,685 grams of psilocybin, 51 firearms including suspected machine
21 guns and short-barreled shotguns, and over \$70,000 in cash.

22 //

23 //

24 //



Items seized during search of ALCORN's residence

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33. Based on the above facts, I respectfully submit that there is probable cause to believe that **ALCORN** did possess controlled substances with intent to distribute in violation of Title 21, United States Code, Sections 841(a)(1) and 841(b)(1)(A).


JOSHUA BETONTE
(Affiliate)

Digitally signed by JOSHUA
BETONTE (Affiliate)
Date: 2025.06.03 12:48:55 -07'00'

Joshua Betonte, Complainant
Task Force Officer
Drug Enforcement Administration

Based on the Complaint and Affidavit sworn to before me, and subscribed in my presence, the Court hereby finds that there is probable cause to believe the Defendant committed the offense set forth in the Complaint.

Dated this 4th day of June, 2025.


Grady J. Leupold
United States Magistrate Judge